GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2856
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
SRI LANKA S CONCERN OVER SETHUSAMUDRAM PROJECT
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the neighbouring country Sri Lanka has expressed its concern over Sethusamudram canal project as reported in "Seema Sandesh", Jaipur dated October 10, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the risk involved in the construction of the Sethusamudram project has been highlighted in the report of Lanka Hydraulic Institute; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) to (d): The Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project is an Indian Project and is located within the Indian side of the International Maritime Boundary Line. Certain issues have been raised by the Government of Sri Lanka, particularly on the environmental implications of the project. Consistent with the cordial and friendly relations between the two countries, the Government of India's endeavour is to address the genuine concerns of the Government of Sri Lanka through mutual discussions for which a mechanism has been put in place.